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It moved off, after getting out of the nest, in a rather sluggish manner, as this species is nocturnal and sleeps during the day. — SPENCER TROTTER.

THE BLUEBIRD FEEDING ON AMPELOPSIS. — On the 2d of April, 1876, this city was visited by remarkably large numbers of the bluebird (*Sialia sialis* Baird). This was its first appearance in abundance this season, only a few stray individuals having previously paid us a "flying visit," during the wonderful installment of warm weather with which we were favored in January. The day was cold, and the frozen ground was partially covered with snow, the remains of the heavy fall of a few days before. Awakened before six o'clock in the morning by the loud twitterings of the birds, I found my visitors busily devouring the berries of the Virginian creeper (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia* Michx.), the vines of which extend over the whole of the easterly side of my house. They having been uncommonly prolific the past season, the branches were thickly covered with clusters of the purple fruit, which adhered to the stems all through the winter. From morning till night the bluebirds, continuing to arrive, crowded the vines, voraciously eating the berries, of which, in their eagerness, they broke off nearly as many as they swallowed. The next day the weather suddenly became milder, and the birds disappeared. — HENRY GILLMAN, Detroit, Mich.

### ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS. — In the third volume of the Transactions of the Academy of Sciences of St. Louis, Mr. A. J. Conant has published an article upon the archæology of Missouri, especially the caves of the Ozark Mountains and the mounds and earthworks on the banks of Bayou St. John, in the southeastern portion of the State.

The *New York Tribune* of July 7th records the tragic death of L. H. Cheney, a member of the Harvard Summer School of Geology, at Cumberland Gap. While excavating a mound with three others, he was buried by the falling earth. His companions were saved.

The State Archæological Association of Indiana will hold its first annual meeting in the rooms of the state geologist at Indianapolis, on the 17th and 18th of October. In addition to the regular sessions, excursions will be made to interesting localities. Provisions are also on foot to establish a museum and library. We heartily commend this scheme, and believe that exhaustive special collections are necessary to supplement the National and the Peabody Museums.

The *North American Review* for July contains Mr. Lewis H. Morgan's paper, read before the last meeting of the National Academy on the Houses of the Mound Builders. The distinguished author believes that the mural mounds were the foundations of the communal dwellings of village Indians, and that they can be understood by the study of similar structures now existing or known to have existed since the commencement of American exploration.

The Proceedings of the American Association for 1875 has appeared, and contains full reports or extended abstracts of C. V. Riley's paper on Locusts as Food for Man, Whittlesey's paper on Ancient Rock Inscriptions in Ohio, Morgan's paper on Ethnical Periods and on Arts of Subsistence, Sternberg's paper on Indian Burial Mounds and Shell-Heaps near Pensacola, Comstock's Archæological Notes from Wyoming, Coffinberry and Strong's paper on the Explorations of Ancient Mounds in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Farquharson's paper on Recent Exploration of Mounds near Davenport, Iowa, and Gilman's paper on the Ancient Men of the Great Lakes. Several other papers are mentioned by title, but no abstracts are given.

The Society of Anthropology of Paris has offered a prize this year to be presented to the author of the best paper upon the subject, The Slavonic Races, and Maps of the Countries inhabited by the Slavonians.

The *Athenæum* for July 8th contains the remainder of the questions to be discussed at the International Congress of Orientalists at St. Petersburg. They relate to Turanian, Japanese, Indian, Arabian, Persian, and Hebrew investigations.

Professor Busk exhibited to the London Anthropological Institute, June 13th, a collection of skulls from the New Hebrides. Some of those from Mallicolo showed flattening of the forehead.

The first seven articles of the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute for 1875 relate to the Maori race, Moas and Moa-Hunters, and the relation between the Maoris and the Moa-Hunters. The tendency seems to be to discard the notions of Haast and others that the Moa became extinct many centuries ago, and that the Moa-Hunters were a prehistoric people, now quite extinct, and not at all related to the Maoris.

A paper by Mr. Rankin on The South Sea Islanders was read by Mr. Brabrook before the Anthropological Institute, June 13th, in which the title Mahori is proposed for the light-colored races of the Pacific Isles, and Papuan for the blacks. The author believes that the latter first peopled the greater part of the islands, and that the lighter race, coming later from the west, settled first in Samoa, and spread thence in all directions, mingling often with the Papuans. He showed several differences between the Maoris and the Malays, who seem to be a separate race.

In *Nature* for June 29th, the Rev. J. S. Whitmee makes some very sound observations upon the errors which have been propagated with reference to the supposed rapid decrease of the Polynesians, and the same may apply to aborigines in general. The first source of error is the excessively high estimates put upon these countries by early visitors, who assumed the thickly settled strips of coast which they explored as a sample of the whole country. In many islands, the author believes, the population is actually increasing, owing to the beneficial influence of the missionaries, the cessation of human sacrifice, cannibalism, and in-

fanticide, the fewer wars, the better treatment of women, the care of children, the sick, and the aged, and a more steady supply of food. Upon these topics the author has collected a great many statistics.

The second number of Broca's *Revue d'Anthropologie* for 1876 is at hand, and contains the following matter: Upon Cranio-Cerebral Topography, Broca; Banton or Abanton, Hovelacque; Vanikoro and its Inhabitants, Lesson; The Tumulus of Eshøj, Denmark, Engelhardt; *Revue critique*, *Revue préhistorique*, *Revue des Livres*, *Revue des Journaux*, *Extraits et Analyses*, *Miscellanea*, *Nécrologie*, *Bulletin bibliographique*. Nearly one half the number is taken up with the treatment of cranio-cerebral topography by M. Broca, and the review of the most eminent works which have been published upon the subject by Gratiolet, Arnold, Broca, Bischoff, Heftler, Turner, Féré, Ecker, and Landzert.

*Das Ausland*, under the editorship of F. von Hellwald, always contains some interesting anthropological description or discussion. In the number for May 29th is a review of Rutimeyer's Variation of the Fauna of Switzerland since the Existence of Man there, also a *résumé* of the Indian Tribes of the United States made from Authentic Sources, by Adolph Hunnius; in the number for June 5th, Dr. Bela Weisz discusses Economics; in that for June 12th, the Earliest Use of Potstone (*Lapis ollaris*), and in that for June 19th, the Origin of Alphabetic Writing, the Numerical Relations of the Sexes, and Manners and Customs in Servia are discussed. — O. T. MASON.

OCURRENCE OF THE PATOO-PATOO IN NORTH AMERICA. — An interesting example of the independent production of a well-known foreign form of weapons may be seen in the Michigan exhibit of stone and copper implements at the Philadelphia Exposition, where there is a single specimen of steatite patoo-patoo, such as is common in New Zealand. These weapons are described by Tylor (*Early History of Mankind*, p. 204, London, 1870) as "an edged club of bone or stone, which has been compared to a beaver's tail, or is still more like a soda-water bottle with the bulb flattened, and it is a very effective weapon in a hand-to-hand fight, being so sharp that a man's skull may be split at one blow with it." This description will strictly apply to the Michigan specimen, with the one exception of not being drilled at the smaller end, for a wrist cord. This weapon measures sixteen and one fourth inches in length. It is two and five eighths inches wide for eleven inches, when it tapers to one and one half inches, but again widens to two inches at the end, thus forming a terminal knob or button, about which a wrist cord could be securely fastened. The edges are beautifully wrought and are as sharp now as the general find of polished stone axes and celts. E. B. Tylor, whom we have already quoted, mentions the occurrence of such a specimen, "of dark brown jasper," from Peru, and also one, "of a greenish amphibolic stone," from Cuzco, which is figured by Rivero and Tschudi. Of the vast numbers of relics of American aborigines at Phil-

adelphia there is no other specimen of the form above described, and it is presumable that this weapon was one seldom fashioned in North America, and its occurrence seems better explained by considering it rather as an independent invention of its original owner, than a copy of the favorite arm of another people. — C. C. ABBOTT, M. D.

### GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

ICEBERGS OFF THE COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND. — On the coast of Newfoundland, icebergs generally make their appearance about the 1st of January. Their approach is heralded by a number of smaller pieces. When we reflect upon the origin of these bergs, it would appear that the greater number of them ought to be disengaged from their parent mass, the glacier, in summer-time. The semi-fluid mass of which the glacier is made up, creeping slowly, like a frozen river, down the valley, by the aid of heat, gravity, etc., has in summer-time its pace augmented by the increment it receives at this season of the year. It then pushes itself rapidly forward into the ocean, and there, by the buoyancy of the water, the projecting ice-mass is detached and floated off. Why, therefore, is it that the bergs are not seen off the coast of Newfoundland at the close of the summer, or at latest in the "fall" of the year? The answer to this may be obtained from the inference of Sir Edward Belcher and other arctic navigators, who tell us that in very high latitudes the ice appears to be in motion much earlier than it is farther to the south. On the 20th of May the western side of Smith's Sound has been found to be quite open for navigators in a boat, whilst Barron Strait is not navigable till late in August. The consequence of this would appear to be that whatever ice may be set free far north early in the year is detained in more southern latitudes until the fall. Another cause also operating in keeping the ice off the coast until the spring of the year may be the wind. Although icebergs, with regard to their motion and the direction of the wind, often present curious anomalies, yet these must to a slight degree be influential on their wanderings. In the fall of the year the prevalent winds on the North American side of the Atlantic are, generally speaking, from the west, which tend to keep all bergs out at sea, and thus to observers on the land they would be lost sight of; but in the spring of the year the winds are more or less northerly, which would only aid the current in bringing the ice along shore. The most apparent suggestion for the detention of the ice before reaching the shores of Labrador and Newfoundland is of course the distance it has to travel; but considering the steady rate at which this is carried on in the stream which bears it, the effects of wind and the delay in the breaking up of the southern arctic barrier must have the precedence. — *J. Milne in the Geological Magazine, July.*

RECENT VIEWS IN GEOLOGY. — Mr. John Evans, in his late address as president of the Geological Society of London, after giving obituary